

Amendment and Response
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REMARKS

Reexamination and reconsideration of the captioned application are requested in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks that follow. Claims 1 to 37, 47 to 49, 55, 56 to 59, and new claim 60 remain for consideration on the merits. Claims 38 to 46, 50 to 54, and 56 to 59 are canceled.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 38 to 54 and 56 to 59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,017,998 to Duan et al. The rejection is moot in view of canceled claims 38 to 46, 50 to 54, and 56 to 59. Claims 47 to 49 have been rewritten to depend from method claim 55.

Allowed Claims

Claims 1 to 37 have been allowed by the Examiner. Claim 55 has been objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claim 46. The Examiner indicated that claim 55 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form that includes all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claim 55 has been rewritten in independent format and applicants submit that the newly amend claim includes all of the limitations of the rejected base claim.

New Claim

The subject matter of newly added dependent claim 60 is supported *inter alia* in paragraph [0135] of the disclosure as originally filed. The prepolymer mixture which is formed in the absence of water can be subsequently dispersed in water.

In view of the foregoing amendments and discussion, it is submitted that the instantly claimed subject is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, an early Notice of Allowance with respect to claims 1 to 37, 47 to 49, 55, 56 to 59, and new claim 60 is earnestly solicited.

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If the Examiner has any questions, please feel free to contact the undersigned at the telephone number noted below.

Respectfully submitted,

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